

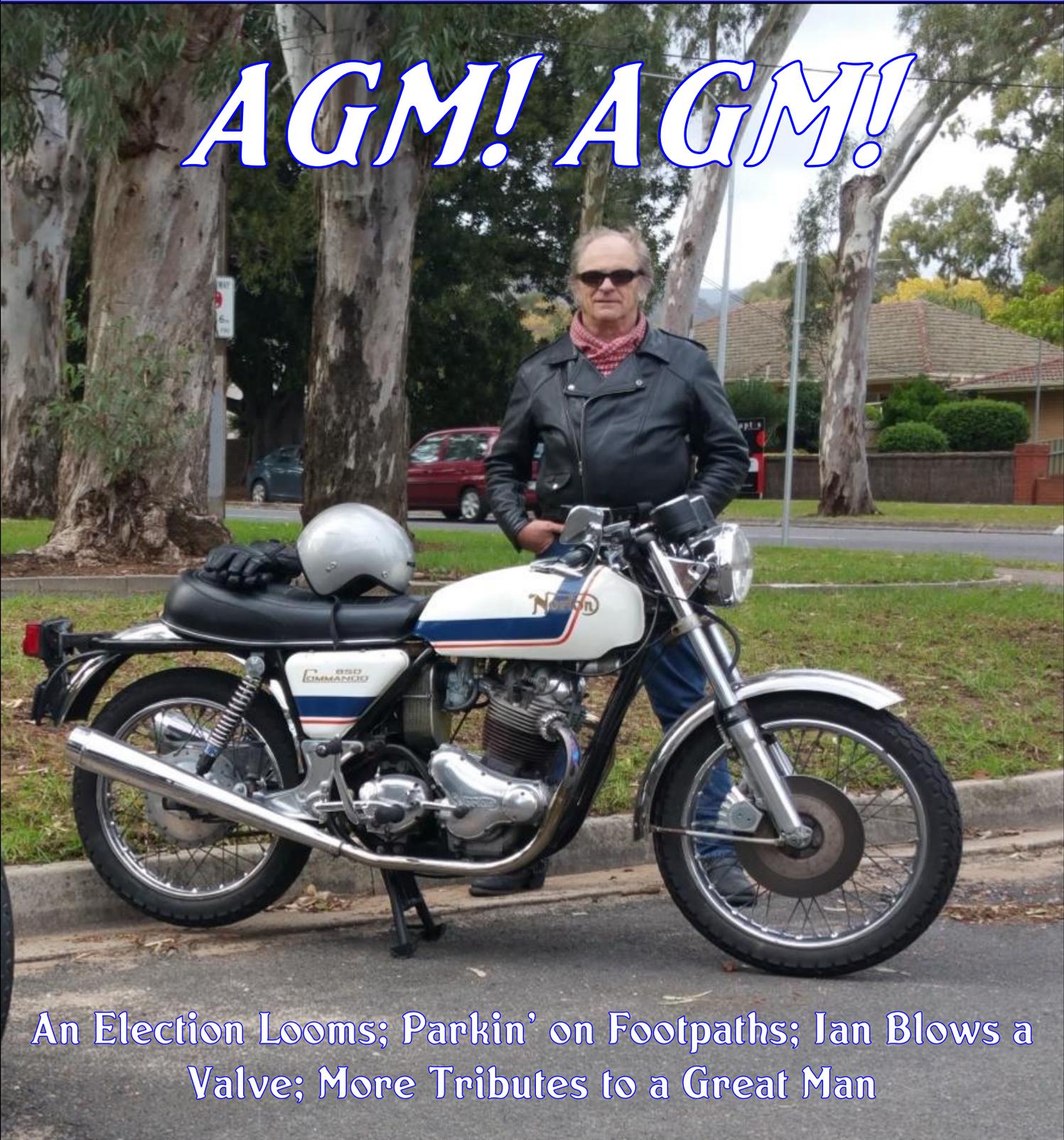


**Norton**

**NORTON MOTORCYCLE CLUB  
of SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.  
Est. JUNE 1999.  
ISSUE №103 June 2016**



***ENERGETTE***



***AGM! AGM!***

***An Election Looms; Parkin' on Footpaths; Ian Blows a Valve; More Tributes to a Great Man***



**WEBSITE: [www.nmcsa.org](http://www.nmcsa.org)**

**MEETINGS** held on the **1st Monday** of the month, **8.00pm** start.

*NO MEETING IN JANUARY* and on Public Holidays  
when the meeting will be held on the following Monday.

**We meet at the:** **VELOCETTE CLUBROOMS**  
**74 DRAYTON STREET, BOWDEN**

**ENQUIRIES TO SECRETARY:** NMCC of SA, PO Box 327 HINDMARSH SA 5007  
**Or EMAIL:** [secretary@nmcsa.org](mailto:secretary@nmcsa.org)

***ALL NORTON OWNERS, ENTHUSIASTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE WELCOME***

## **NORTON MOTORCYCLE CLUB of South Australia Inc. Committee 2015—2016**

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<b>VICE PRESIDENT</b>	<b>Donald Hosier</b>	<b>0433 318 503/<a href="mailto:editor@nmcsa.org">editor@nmcsa.org</a></b>
<b>SECRETARY</b>	<b><a href="mailto:secretary@nmcsa.org">secretary@nmcsa.org</a></b>	
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### ***For Contributions, please contact editor;***

**Mobile** 0433 318 503  
**By email** [editor@nmcsa.org](mailto:editor@nmcsa.org)

Members wanting any events, services, bike parts, rides, etc. in the ENERGETTE please contact editor with details for inclusion in future issues.

But don't stop there, this newsletter is about  
The Norton Motorcycle Club of SA,  
**THAT'S YOU.**

If you just want to have a picture of your bike in print, or a shot of the latest mod or repair, send it in! Supply as much info as you can and I'll do the rest. Look at Dave Meldrum's comparison of the different Commando tanks in issue #93. A passing observation in the shed filled a whole page and gives great perspective on different options for someone's bike.

### **Cover photo:**

**Dave Y and his 850. Epitome of cool**



Dear Members,

June is the month of the AGM. All positions will be declared vacant and all members have a chance to nominate for any of the positions.

At this AGM I will resign my position as President and do not wish to be re-nominated. However I will be willing to take on the position of Vice President. Due to the passing of Bill Fischer it is important that someone in the club nominates for the position of secretary.

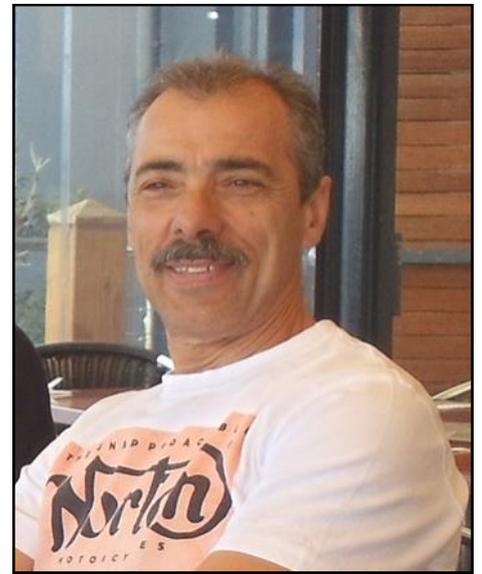
On the first weekend of April I made the annual trip to Scorsby. This is an all Motorcycle swap so there is always plenty of parts or bikes on site. I managed to buy a Norton gearbox and various parts, so overall a good swap.

On the bike front things are progressing very slowly. Hopefully the feather-bed Inter will be ready for this years Bay to Birdwood.

In the meantime, enjoy riding your Nortons and stay upright.

Regards,

Your President  
Con Desyllas



#### CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

The Annual General Meeting is upon us and never have we needed active members more! Con is standing down as president (and he means it this time!), and with the sad passing of Bill, we need a new secretary as well.

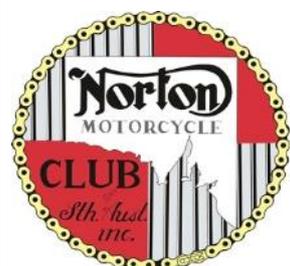
Myself, I am happy to stay on as editor, but if you feel the Energette needs fresh blood, or you just want to give it go, I won't be upset. I am happy to help out with anything publishing related so there is nothing to fear but fear itself!

So with the annual plea (uh, reminder) over, let's review what's in this issue. Ian D. has sent a brief update from his shed, regarding the burnt valve on his Commando, some good info there. His bike's been off the road for 18 months, that probably would've been a lot shorter if he didn't have a snarling Laverda raring to go! On the following page you'll find a reprint of The Advertisers special obituary for Bill Fisher, a truly enlightening read about our quiet secretary. Elsewhere, our regalia officer, Lyndi, has provided us with details of her brothers' Feather-bed 850 for sale, Owen has written up a couple of ride reports, and there's info on Adelaide's new free parking for motorcycles. And don't forget, Steve A. is still on the lookout for 16H and Big Four parts, as well as engine or parts for Model 50, ES2 or Model 19.

What's going on with my Commando? Haven't been in the shed for almost 2 months, I don't want to talk about it.

The Ed

D. Hosier



**For Contributions, please contact editor;**

Mobile

0433 318 503

By email

editor@nmcsa.org

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# Norton



# Torque

## WHEN THINGS F\*&K UP

The last ride on my Commando was the Dec 2014 Club ride, eighteen bloody months ago by the time you read this. Eighteen months of frustration. It didn't run well on that last ride and a few things lead me to believe a head gasket had blown.

Wrong, I found a push rod that had a loose hardened tip which was sorted using some of that super Loctite and primer, this is the stuff that needs heat to free it up. Fixing that lead to a right hand exhaust header glowing red, and I mean bright red! Changed the electronic ignition, plugs, coils, pilot jets, stripped and cleaned the Mikuni carburetors heaps of times, tried the Amals. Changing to a larger pilot jet made it glow a dull red.

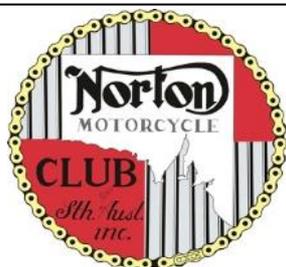
Okay.... Let's strip the head, purchase one valve spring compressor, one head gasket left, let's do it. As you can see by the pic, burnt right exhaust valve with the left starting to show the same, these are the Kibblewhite Black Diamonds valves.

Why??? At a guess, the inlet push rod held the valve open leaning out the mixture in that cylinder. That's my theory anyway. Order two new ones, lap them in, fit the last head gasket etc, etc...

It goes, a bit of fine tune, fingers crossed and it'll be good for the next 10,000 miles. Had 2 rides, one 50 miles re-torque head and the second about a 100miles, must re-torque the head again.

Thanks must go to all those members that have offered advice and help which makes a club a club.

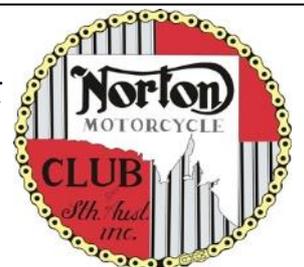
Ian D

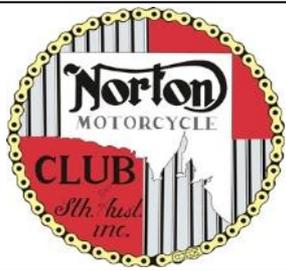


Let us know what's going on in your shed! Full engine rebuild, restoration, chasing elusive mechanical gremlins, even just basic maintenance or race prepping. Share your experiences with us, it just might help someone else solve a problem or learn something new!

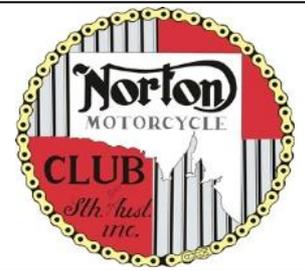
Contact us with the story, and pics if available.

Send your info to the Editor at [editor@nmcsa.org](mailto:editor@nmcsa.org)





# Norton



## BILL FISHER - TRIBUTES CONTINUE

*We were all shocked to learn of Bill's passing, but how many of us knew of his extraordinary life outside of the Club? He was a private man, even after I spoke to him about his studies in international law, never did he reveal his true intentions as to how he planned to use his new qualifications, he simply said it would be a good way to travel the world. A quick internet search of Bill will show many results of his letters to Parliament and various federal and international organizations, stating his opposition to how the less fortunate are being treated, and how we can improve their lives. Bill was a TRUE rebel and 'disruptor'.*

*The following obituary was printed in The Advertiser on April 23rd and is a glowing reflection of what a remarkable man our secretary was:*

### WILLIAM ALFORD FISHER

Scholar and activist

**Born:** June 24, 1946; Adelaide

**Died:** February 22, 2016; Adelaide

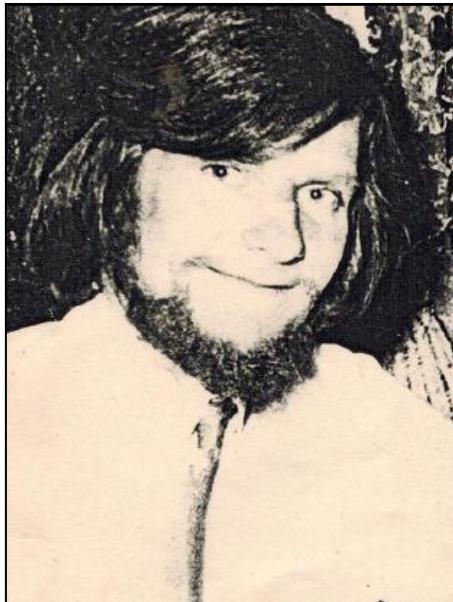
A DELIGHTFULLY eccentric, kind, generous and thoughtful person, "Bill" Fisher did his bit to make the world a better place.

He grew up in a loving family with father Andy, a sub-editor at *The Advertiser*, mother Joyce and now-deceased brother Andrew. His grandfather, Andrew Fisher, was a Labor prime minister and founder of the Commonwealth Bank.

Bill was educated at Plympton Primary School, Scotch College and the University of Adelaide. At university in the 1960s, he excelled in philosophy — and it was the philosophy of ideas, of the big picture, that remained with him for the rest of his life. Bill and his then wife Helena, together with several friends from university days, headed for London and elsewhere in Europe.

They were in time for the tail-end of "The swinging '60s", Barry McKenzie, the Provisional IRA London bombings, *Oz Magazine* and Arthur Scargill and the coal miners' strike.

Bill returned home full of these influences and turned to further academic studies in education and



librarianship. Later, he would study law.

He became a teacher but responded most to the alternative cultures of the era and was soon living the counter-cultural life in St Peters. After the dismissal of the Whitlam government in 1975, Bill stuck to his activist ideals and became involved in the East Timor independence movement, showing his stripes by marching on Anzac Day wearing a "Hands off East Timor" T-shirt. When the resolution of the East Timor question loomed in 1999, Bill was able to work with the United Nations during the independence referendum.

Inspired by his father's journalism,

he was an enthusiastic writer of submissions to parliamentary inquiries and letters to the editor in support of many and various causes.

He delivered speeches at Adelaide's Speakers' Corner, wrote and performed bush ballads full of social messages, and loved to be involved in the folk festivals and bush dances.

He was active in Friends of the Earth and also as long serving secretary of the Norton Motorcycle Club of SA.

He never became an activist's leader but, instead, played the role of loyal foot soldier in the fights for many worthy causes.

In the end, he decided that by taking his law degree he could best help ordinary people in need of legal help.

His sudden death from a heart attack brought those plans to an end. He had no children.

# Barossa CCW Ride – 10th April 2016

Official route stats:

Breakfast: Cibo Coffee, Shop 1, 81 Murray Street, Gawler

Stage 1: Gawler to Mount Pleasant to Angaston = 74km.

Unofficial route stats:

Stage 2: Angaston to Sedan to Swan Reach to Blanchetown to Gawler = 170km.

Breakfast and/or Ride attendees:

Owen - 750 Commando

8:30am – Gawler

Aah! Breakfast at last after the early start from ‘down south’. The usual morning fare plus some lovely coffee but somehow lacking... Aha! This time no fellow travellers to break bread with, that’s a first. When all that’s bought is in and all that’s spent is out, it is time to mosey down to the Shell servo to meet with the other riders of the day. Again, no-one: perhaps a footy club needs them more? Oh well, to comply with club registration requirements, the show [ride] must go on.

10:00am – Stage 1: Gawler to Mount Pleasant to Angaston

Strangely liberating, this club riding without a care, I veer to the left to see where this road goes, I brake hard to turn right onto a bitumised goat-track, I accelerate hard to get past this dawdler/texter, just keep going and then still arrive in Mount Pleasant via a road I’ve not noticed before. Another coffee and a quick sit in the sun as the clouds come and go. Time to shove off if the Angaston schedule is to be kept. Who knows, someone may just be waiting to meet up? A ride through town and back again but no, not a Norton out and about amongst all those bikes parked along that thoroughfare. Duty done: the day is mine. Where does this road go? Sedan! I love that road!

11:45am - Stage 2: Angaston to Sedan to Swan Reach to Blanchetown to Gawler

What to say? The dropdown from Keyneton to Sedan on my Norton Commando is smooth and flowing: throttle rolls on, then off, perhaps down a gear, occasionally a touch of brakes, a trailing throttle and the exhausts burble, accelerate - they roar: steady - they purr: oh joy.

From Sedan, the flat and straight road ahead is to Swan Reach on the River Murray. A short wait for the ferry allows for a leg stretch and photo opportunity. Across the river and turn northward for an open-‘er-up to sustained cruise run to Blanchetown. Over 4000rpm with feet on the rear pegs, the bike is singing: the tinkling of tappets, the balanced growl from the mufflers and the hiss of air intake combines with road hum for a meditative “Ommm” - except for that left ear wind whistling helmet noise, this may just be Norton nirvana.

Warm now and the land around Blanchetown is dried and dusty, time to stop for fluids and to eat again. A sandwich and an orange juice should do it while I watch the passing traffic. Nourished and refuelled, we’re back onto the highway heading east this time. The long incline before Truro loads the bike and tests the tuning: the throttle keeps rolling on as the incline increases and the bike keeps powering on to maintain the speed: a quick roll-on burst and the bike still surges forward. Yep, the main jets are correct. Through Truro, onto the Northern Expressway and now passing Gawler: let’s go home. Mmmm.



Fuelin’ up; waiting for the ferry; and the views go on for miles!



# Northern Hills Ride – 15th May 2016

## Official route stats:

Breakfast: Cascada Cafe, 540 Glynburn Road, Burnside, SA.

Stage 1: Hazelwood Park to Mount Torrens to Mount Pleasant = 76km.

Stage 2: Mount Pleasant to Mount Torrens = 16km.

## Unofficial route stats:

Stage 3: Mount Torrens to Mannum to Willunga = 164km.

## Breakfast and/or Ride attendees:

Dave Y - 850 Commando

Owen - 850 Commando

## 8:30am – Burnside

We arrived, we ate, we drank, we talked Nortons, we rode away.

## 10:00am – Stage 1: Hazelwood Park to Mount Torrens to Mount Pleasant

Charlie the Triumph rider met us at the Hazelwood Park for our regular catch-up. He spotted straight away that there was a 'new' Norton amongst the gathering of club members so we all spend time comparing the differences between Dave's '74 Mk2 and my '74 Mk2a. Replace the Mk2a plastic airbox and 'bean can' mufflers with a 'ham can' aircleaner and whistler style mufflers and there is not a lot readily visible.

Dave and I wander through the hills, upward past Mount Lofty onto the Freeway at Crafers and off again at Stirling and then toward Summertown and onwards past Balhannah. A back road exploration leaves us with three dirt road options or a retrace so we turn left to reappear on the main road past Inverbrackie. A short stop at Mount Torrens to 'check on things' and then we head off for Mount Pleasant (though Birdwood) to see whether anyone is at this meeting point. Alas, no but it is time for coffee and a feet-up bask in the sun for 20 minutes.

## 11:45am - Stage 2: Mount Pleasant to Mount Torrens

Lots to get done today so we part company at Mount Torrens: only after fixing that standard tinplate mounted nonsense of a rubbery rear brake switch on my bike.

## 12:30pm – Stage 3: Mount Torrens to Mannum to Willunga

After a couple of weeks of short journeys followed by checking and re-tensioning of components on the 850, this is the first outing to get to, and sustain, the operating temperatures and pressures for a prolonged period. The ride to the Murray Bridge turn-off outside Mannum (through Tungkillo and Palmer) is the first sustained 100km/h burst so a roadside check-over is prudent. All good! Onward to Callington via the Old Princess Highway and a visual inspection while onboard and moving is a-ok as well. The run to Strathalbyn for fuel at the Garage reveals a weep of engine oil at the tacho drive and a seep of gearbox oil past the kickstarter o-ring. Can't see that from the seat - gotta be happy with that!

The homeward run through Meadows and the hills around Willunga shows nothing untoward for an unimproved 1974 850 Mk2a Norton Commando. Unimproved that is except for the: 1. Aircleaner and mufflers; 2. AMAL 932 Mk1 carburetors but that is a story for another time.



Owen's newly finished 850 on its first major outing, and Dave Y's 850 in JPN livery

## Meeting 188

04/04/16

- OPENING: President Con Desyllas opened the meeting at 8 pm and welcomed members
- PRESENT: Jason, Con, Lyndi, Dave R, Paul K, Dave M, Murray, Rick, Owen, Trev, Des
- APOLOGIES: Jerome M, Neil G, Dan, John H, Ian D
- TREASURER: \$41.80 IN      \$521 OUT      \$1155 BAL
- CLUB CAPTAIN: Reports in Energette. Barossa Valley ride on 10/04/16
- EDITOR: New issue out with a tribute to Bill Fisher, All British Day feature and bikes for sale
- REGALIA: Requested items ordered this week. Check out new polo shirts for \$35. Low stock after ABD. Long sleeve shirts available to order
- FEDERATION: Bay To Birdwood 'Veterans' date lifted to 1959. Targeting 1300 vehicles to break even. Federation has asked clubs to vote on whether to give a \$20k 'safety net' if there's a financial shortfall. Paul K to vote on our behalf. Con held a vote: NMCSA voted against safety net
- GENERAL BUSINESS: Paul K met with Bill Fisher's next of kin, a cousin, and collected Club property; VMCC has asked us to sort our lockbox in shipping container. Most items in lockbox have gone missing over the years; Owen G has a rebuilt 74 850 for sale. He has designed a proper kill switch for Commandos, have a chat with him; Dave R asks if anyone is interested in South African motorbike tours, come have a chat; Con went to Scorsby swapmeet; Tony says Reynolds is no longer making motorcycle chains; Con, we need a new secretary

Meeting closed at 8:45

## Meeting 189

02/05/16

- OPENING: President Con Desyllas opened the meeting at 8 pm and welcomed members
- PRESENT: Con, Lyndi, Donald, Dave Rocklyn, Ian Delaine, Paul Knapp, Dave M, Steve Adkins, Rick, Cozi, Dan Gleeson, Greg Wren, Trevor King, Neil Gloyn, Owen Green, Dave York, Eddy S, Jason Ward
- APOLOGIES: John McNaughton.
- TREASURER: \$280 IN      \$407 OUT      \$1327 BAL
- CLUB CAPTAIN: Last month's ride to Gawler, Barossa Valley, Swan Reach, very small turn out. Next ride on 15<sup>th</sup> May. North Hills Ride. Brekky at Cascada Café, 540 Glynburn Road, Burnside. Ride from Hazelwood Park, Cnr Greenhill Rd & Hawthorn Crs, Hazelwood Park. Catch up at Mount Pleasant
- LIBRARIAN: New edition of "Oily Rag" available. Article on Manx motors donated by Rick
- REGALIA: Waiting on delivery of more stock. Painted price list board donated by Rick
- FEDERATION: Motion passed at last meeting for one off donation of \$20,000 towards Bay to Birdwood.
- GENERAL BUSINESS: Nice write up about Bill in paper, Don is going to put copy in Energette; Need to make sure we have people to nominate for committee roles at AGM next month. Discuss re: role statements and importance of people nominating; Barry elected public officer at last meeting; Congratulations to Lyndi who won trophy for "Best Ladies Bike" at Free mason's run; General discussion re: fuel types used and preferred by members, problems with ethanol blends and how to address, spark plugs used and methods of checking mixture – plug chop etc. (Owen has gauges for measuring mixture); Donald looking to borrow Production Racer tank to trial fit

Raffle winner G7 (Owen)

Meeting close 8:40

## For Sale/Wanted

### Wanted

16H or Big-4 parts 1937-1947. Sample list below, but interested in all appropriate/period parts/components in small or large lots:

- Smiths 80mph speedo and bracket
- Front wheel speedo drive gearbox
- Tool box
- Dolls Head gearbox complete or any serviceable components
- any other fasteners (especially engine/gearbox) odds & sods or "period" 16H or Big-4 components

Also complete or parts for late Model 50 engine (alternator) or similar era ES2/Model 19 also considered. Steve Adkins Ph: 0434 564 662 Email: Adkins\_s@bigpond.com

### For Sale

Featherbed framed Commando 850 motor

- Frame stripped and painted
- Head stem bearings (new)
- Rebuilt engine with a balanced crank
- Rebuilt gearbox
- Boyer ignition (new)
- Belt primary drive (new)
- Final drive chain (new)
- Triumph T140 "SPECIAL" wheels
- Reconditioned front and rear disc callipers
- Rear disc
- Rear axle, bearings and spacers (new)
- Stainless steel bolts, nuts and nylon nuts throughout
- Headlight (new, not shown)
- Swing arm bushes (new)
- Reconditioned ORIGINAL petrol tank with new paint
- Reconditioned taco
- Reconditioned carby

And much more...

All reasonable offers considered. Robert Tietz Ph: 8264 3036



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## FREE MOTORCYCLE PARKING



SA Motor magazine recently reported that Adelaide City Council is undergoing a nine month trial to allow free motorcycle and scooter parking on certain footpaths in the CBD. Unlimited-time parking spaces can be found in designated areas around Victoria Square and Light Square. Be sure to park only in designated, sign posted areas, otherwise you can still get hit with a fine, and there's still no riding on footpaths.

The Council hopes to encourage more people to use motorcycles to reduce congestion, and if successful, will look at rolling this out across the CBD.

As with many initiatives like this in Adelaide, however, I say just bloody do it!



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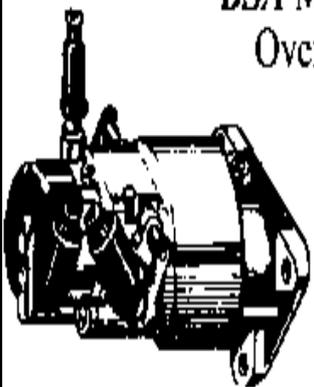
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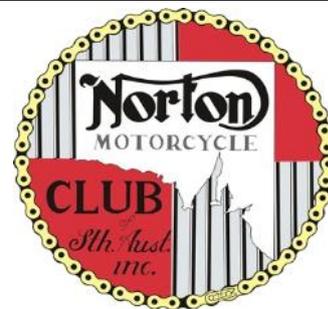
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**8344 7888**

122 Main North Road Prospect



# Ride Calendar 2015/16



## Date/Ride

## Brekky @ 8:30am

## Ride @ 10:00am

19th June  
Clare Valley

Café De Vilis  
426 Main North Rd  
Blair Athol

Kart Mania  
1 Port Wakefield Rd  
Gepps Cross

10th July  
Murray River

The Stirling Hotel  
52 Mount Barker Rd  
Stirling

The Stirling Hotel  
52 Mount Barker Rd  
Stirling

14th August  
Barossa  
(clockwise)

Golden Fleece Hotel  
77 Murray St  
Gawler

Shell Gawler  
12 Murray St  
Gawler

11th September  
Lake Alexandrina

Montagna Café  
11/10 Coromandel Pde  
Blackwood

Montagna Café  
11/10 Coromandel Pde  
Blackwood

Ride calendar and maps are also posted on our website [www.nmcsa.org](http://www.nmcsa.org)



All rides start at 10am unless otherwise noted.

Calendar is prepared in advance &  
is subject to change.

Please check club notices in Thursday's Advertiser  
or call the Club Captain @ 0401 211 256

